

**REMARKS**

In the February 10, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-20 were pending in the application and that claims 1-20 were rejected. Applicants believe that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed below.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) – U.S. Patent No. 5,756,628 (Tani et al.)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,756,628 (Tani et al.). Tani et al. discloses an organic phyllotitanosilicate, a shaped body thereof, and a method for producing them. *Col. 1, Ins. 7-9.*

In the present application, claim 1 (and dependent claims 2-6) recites a paint composition comprising a layer organic-inorganic composite and titanium alkoxide in an amount of from 1 to 50 parts by weight with respect to the layer organic-inorganic composite taken as 100 parts by weight. Claim 7 (and dependent claims 8-13) recites a process for producing a wear-resistant coating film, comprising, *inter alia*, the step of preparing a paint composition comprising a layer organic-inorganic composite and titanium alkoxide in an amount of from 1 to 50 parts by weight with respect to the layer organic-inorganic composite taken as 100 parts by weight. Claim 14 (and dependent claims 15-20) recites a wear-resistant coating film, comprising, *inter alia*, a paint composition coated on a surface of a resinous substrate and comprising a layer organic-inorganic composite and titanium alkoxide in an amount of from 1 to 50 parts by weight with respect to the layer organic-inorganic composite taken as 100 parts by weight.

Tani et al. does not disclose a paint. Each of Applicants' claims require a paint composition. Furthermore, in Example 4, where Tani et al. discloses the formation of a hard coat film, a layer organic-inorganic composite is used independent of titanium alkoxide. Each of

Applicants' claims require a paint composition comprising a layer organic-inorganic composite and titanium alkoxide.

Furthermore, Tani et al. does not disclose an amount of titanium alkoxide present in an amount of from 1 to 50 parts by weight with respect to the layer organic-inorganic composite taken as 100 parts by weight, as required by each of Applicants' claims. The Examiner notes that an excess of titanium alkoxide is used to form the layered structure. However, the layered structure which results does not contain titanium alkoxide present in an amount of from 1 to 50 parts by weight with respect to the layer organic-inorganic composite taken as 100 parts by weight. This is because the reaction speed of titanium alkoxide is rapid, and most of the titanium alkoxide is bonded at -O-Ti-O- to constitute an octahedral structural layer. *See col. 8, lns. 9-23.* For example, when titanium alkoxide/organoalkoxy silane is 2:1, a layer organic-inorganic composite of a 1:1 type is formed. *See col. 8, lns. 63-67.* Thus, a layer organic-inorganic composite in which a tetrahedral structural layer is bonded to a part of one side of the octahedral structural layer is formed. Therefore, there is no possibility that a mixture containing titanium alkoxide, in the proportions required by Applicants' claims, results. *See Applicants' specification [0009] ("Accordingly, the layer organic-inorganic composite of the present paint composition does not react of itself even when it coexists with highly reactive metallic alkoxides.").* Thus, the molecular structure of Applicants' paint composition, as claimed, is very different than the molecular structure of the hard coat film disclosed by Tani et al.

Because Tani et al. does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of Applicants' claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 5000-5119.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 5000-5119.

Respectfully submitted,
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